



BUREAU OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: IDAHO FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICTS

FROM: BRIAN SHIPLETT, FIRE MANAGEMENT BUREAU CHIEF 

DATE: MARCH 24, 2006

SUBJECT: REVISED VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) PROGRAM APPLICATION

Enclosed is a copy of the **Idaho Department of Lands Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Application for 2006**. Volunteer Fire Assistance is a cooperative program between Idaho Department of Lands and USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry. The application, as well as additional information on the VFA grant process and timeline, is also available on line at:

http://www.idl.idaho.gov/nat_fire_plan/grant_family_2003/grant_family4.htm#vfa

Application Deadline: May 5, 2006

Eligibility Requirements:

1. A single fire department serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less is eligible (latest Census).
2. Area fire departments (fire districts, townships, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the fire department includes a rural area or a rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used to benefit the rural population.
3. A single county or town with a population over 10,000 that is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area or a rural community or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used for the rural area.
4. A single community with a population greater than 10,000 and having a single fire department with one or more fire stations may qualify. The fire department must have a service area that includes a rural area or community that does not exceed 10,000

population. The VFA funding must be used only for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly a single community with a population greater than 10,000 that also provides fire protection to an adjoining rural community of 10,000 or less population by contract, may also be eligible provided the VFA funding is used entirely to support the rural community.

5. A single community fire department serving a population greater than 10,000 and not providing protection to a rural area or to a rural community is not eligible for VFA financial assistance.
6. While paid fire departments are not excluded from participation in the VFA Program, targeting of grants to qualifying fire departments having a membership comprised of at least 80 percent volunteer firefighters is encouraged.
7. The community share (match) of the financial assistance must be available at the time of application. Match must be "hard" match; non-reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses where the subrecipient is responsible for payment. Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of Federal assistance.

Ranking Criteria:

The Idaho State Fire Plan Working group has recommended that projects be funded consistent with, and ranked by, the following project categories:

- Category 1 – Organization of New Fire Department/District - ***Building, Land, and/or Maintenance Will Not Be Funded.***
- Category 2 – Firefighter Training - ***List Audio Visual Equipment In Category 5 – All Other Equipment.***
- Category 3 – Personal Protective Equipment - ***Please Note: Wildland Firefighting Boots Will Not Be Funded.***
- Category 4 – Radio and Communications Equipment.
- Category 5 – All Other Equipment.

Please note: Fire departments/districts must be able to provide a **hard (cash) match** of at least **10%** of grant funds being requested.

Please contact your local Idaho Department of Lands District or Area office if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program. Applications must be submitted to your local Idaho Department of Lands District or Area office not later than **May 5, 2006**. For a complete listing of IDL offices, refer to the State Government Section of your local telephone book, or visit the Idaho Department of Lands Official Website at:

www.idl.idaho.gov